

St George's Church Semington Annual Report and Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2017

Background

St George's PCC has the responsibility of promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. In the Joint Covenant service in January 2008 an Ecumenical Welcome was jointly signed by the Methodist minister Rev Martyn Skinner, the Anglican Rector Rev Maureen Allchin, Mr Bob Norton as Churchwarden, and the Semington Methodist Secretary, Mr Eric Clifford (copy attached in Minute Book). Until 1999 St George's Church was a Chapel-at-ease in the parish of Steeple Ashton, although in living memory it has had its own Vestry and its own churchwardens with independent minute book and accounts. During the year 2000, however, it was granted parish status in its own right, an independent parish within the benefice of Steeple Ashton and Keevil to regulate the situation. On 28th March 2007 Semington was legally incorporated into the benefice of Hilperton with Whaddon, Semington, Staverton and Hilperton Marsh, now called the Canalside Benefice. The PCC has responsibility for maintenance of the church building and churchyard.

Rector

Rev John Rees was appointed Rector of the Canalside Benefice in June 2016.

Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Church Meeting (ACM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Minister: The Reverend John Rees - Rector

Warden: Mr David Wildsmith

Representatives on the Deanery Synod: Vacancy

Elected Members: Mr Jack Woodward (Treasurer & Secretary), Mrs Angela Grodzicka, Mrs Victoria Shackleton, Mrs Pam Wildsmith, Mrs Bev Woodward.

Ex-Officio member: Mrs Marilyn Stubbs

Standing Committee: (only committee required by law, which has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to directions given by the Council) - The Rector, Churchwarden(s), Treasurer

Electoral Roll Officer: Mrs Angela Grodzicka

Village Hall Council of Management Trustees:

Mrs Bev Woodward and Mr Brian Smyth (PCC) along with 2 Social Club members and 2 Parish Councillors.

Church Attendance

The Deanery Share survey in April-May showed the usual adult Sunday attendance averaged 10 (one less than 2016) with 18 persons (two more) being counted overall. The number increases at festivals and special services. Christmas saw the church comfortably full at all three main services.

Electoral Roll Report

The roll now numbers 24, three more than last year.

Review of the year

The Church Council met four times during the year, in January, June, September and November. There was one other brief meeting - to approve accounts in March.

Christians in Semington - this group has continued to meet on the first Wednesday of the month to pray for the village and its inhabitants.

Services The range and type of service held is under frequent review. Most Sunday services are now held at 9.30am with the occasional special evening service. There is not normally a Sunday service the day after the Saturday Messy Church.

Messy Church This has continued over the year with five main sessions at the school, and a BBQ in the summer at Brook House. Pam Wildsmith and Emily Wood are responsible for the crafts, with John and Anne Rees leading the worship. We continue to have a good team of helpers (about 18 per event) and about 30 – 40 guests each time. This continues to reach families of all ages who have not been regularly to Sunday Church. It is hoped that this outreach opportunity will continue to bring more people to hear the Good News of Jesus. We are grateful to the school for allowing us to hire the building for these times together.

Prayer A small group meets each Friday to pray.

Prayer visiting continued through the summer months with two pairs of visitors, organised by Eric Clifford.

Fête This was held early in July on the Village School Field, with good weather helping to attract a large crowd. The Committee was made up of a mixture of Church representatives, villagers and Friends of St George's School. The money raised was shared between the church maintenance fund, the School, the Village Hall and a charity (Julian House).

Pastoral Care Bev & Jack Woodward and Victoria Shackleton as Lay Pastoral Assistants, along with others, are continuing to give the best care they can in visiting those who are elderly and in any kind of need in the village.

Harvest Supper was held again in the Village Hall in September. Angela Grist, a representative from "Mercy Ships" did a presentation on the medical aid given around the world from their ships. This was followed by a Harvest Service the day after, with money collected given to Mercy Ships.

St George's School was placed in Special Measures following 2017 OfSTED inspection. A new interim Governing body has been set up under the oversight of the Seend Governing Body and Rev John Rees was appointed as a Governor. Jackie Chalk, Head of Seend School, is now responsible for St George's School too and there were significant changes of staff during the summer. In December 2017 an OfSTED monitoring visit confirmed that there have been significant improvements in performance and the new School Improvement Plan is effective. Rev John Rees, supported by others from St George's church, Anne Rees, Marilyn Stubbs, Dawn Farmer and Rev Hugh Hoskins, give much support (eg through weekly collective worship): this is greatly appreciated by the school.

www.canalsidebenefice.org.uk

The Benefice website was launched in April. Internet access now allows:

Access to the pew sheet for those unable to get to Church on Sunday.

Access to the monthly news. The editions for the current year are all available on the "What's On" page.

Information on dates and times for upcoming events from the calendar.

Contact details for the Rector and Churchwardens.

Easy access to Diocesan cycle of prayer and the Church of England online daily prayer resource via our About Us/Resources page.

Our entry on "A Church near you" continues.

Rector's Report

It is very important at this time of year to reflect on God's Blessings on us during the past 12 months as well as to look forward to the future, trusting that God will continue to bless us when we are faithful in our prayer and commitment to serve the Lord in and beyond our villages.

At the beginning of last year our PCC's, agreed priorities and actions as we sought to work out what it means to live out the vision statement agreed by the Benefice prior to my appointment "Together in worship and Service, depending on Christ". This was begun at our Parish Away day in March led by Archdeacon Sue Groom. I hope such days will become part of our annual calendar. In reviewing each of these 5 priority areas there is much for which we can give thanks to God, as well as (inevitably) challenges which should be a focus for our continued prayer and action.

1) Working together

It has been a joy to see members of our Churches working together and supporting one another and the life of our villages in many ways. For example Church members are taking "Open the Book" Bible stories into Hilperton and Staverton Schools, all Churches have shared in our Messy Churches in Semington and Hilperton schools and our cross Benefice LPA team provides invaluable support to our pastoral ministry. In Staverton members of the village community joined together to help care for St Paul's Churchyard and at St Mary's Hilperton Marsh the cubs and scouts have begun to create a community garden, which was dedicated at Harvest Festival. Our PCCs at Hilperton and Staverton/Hilperton Marsh have been meeting together this year as we seek use our skills, talents and Church buildings to serve all these communities

In 2018 and beyond it will be wonderful to see team-working continue to flourish, while recognising the distinct identities of our villages and congregations. In particular, the PCCs of St Michaels and St Marys have agreed to formally explore whether to become a united Parish. Please pray about this.

2) Worship

Our aim is to offer a wide range of informal and more liturgical worship which will inspire both regular worshippers and explorers to discover God's love for them and to be inspired to serve. The survey carried out in 2017 indicates that most people responding find our current pattern helpful, though we have continued to explore service times.

Messy Church is proving to be important in building connections with families in both Semington and (since November) Hilperton: it is wonderful that so many families are enjoying it and wish to explore and grow in faith. It is now important that we consider how we can help these families worship in months when we don't have the resources to offer Messy Church. Please pray about this.

3) Service in our villages

Our Churches and Christian Communities are known for their acts of service and hospitality; this is wonderful. We had lovely harvest suppers in Semington and at St Marys (the latter organised by the St Michael's and St Mary's social committee). Let's do Lunch and Drop in for Coffee have continued to be appreciated and Staverton Cygnets was launched, providing a gathering place for parents and pre-school Children. Many people have said how much they appreciate the fact that St Michaels is now, like St George's, open in daylight hours. At the end of 2017 plans were in place for launching a Friendship Group in St Marys. It will be good for us to pray that our existing groups will build the life of our village communities – and to be open to exploring other opportunities as they emerge, while recognising our resources are finite.

4) Depending on Christ

As Christian Communities, it is important that everything we do is rooted in our life of prayer and desire to grow in our life of faith and service, Our home groups are very important in providing an opportunity for people to share in fellowship, exploring scripture and praying together and it has been good to have even more people sharing in studying together during Lent and Advent in these groups, on a study day and following our Wednesday midweek communion services. Many thanks to Ivor Hughes who wrote our Lent course material.

I hope that during 2018 we will explore how we develop our prayer life and find ways of enabling enquirers to explore faith through either an Alpha or Christianity Explored course. I am looking forward to our Parish Day exploring journeying in faith with Sr. Debbie Orris CA, our Diocesan Discipleship Co-Ordinator.

5) Infrastructure

It is essential that our Church buildings provide places which facilitate our life of worship and service to our community and are warm places of welcome; both literally and spiritually. I am very grateful for all the work undertaken by our St Michaels/St Marys Fabric Group in re-ordering the back of St Michael's, facilitating improvements to St Michaels Room and (after many obstacles) successfully completing the installation of our new boiler. At both St Michaels and St George's we have formed teams and begun to explore further building improvements, including provision of a much needed toilet at St George's. This work will be very important in 2018 and beyond.

Stewardship

During this year our PCC's have recognised that we need to renew our focus on stewardship of our time, talents and money. As you will read elsewhere in the report St Michaels and St Marys have only just been able to meet their financial commitments and in all our Churches much of the burden of leading and developing our ministry is over-dependent on a small number of individuals who are sometimes working too hard on behalf of us all. I long to see a greater sharing of the joys and challenges of ministry: we are all called to serve.

Thank you

I would like to thank you to all who contribute to our worshipping life and ministry; to our musicians, intercessors, readers, bell ringers, flower arrangers and cleaners; to those who support our ministry in schools and with young people, to those who maintain and help to improve our buildings; to those who organise our much appreciated social events, to our PCC members our Lay Pastoral Assistants. I would like to especially mention our Treasurers Mike, Michael and Jack, our PCC Secretaries Jack, Sandie and Stella our Churchwardens, Barrie, Val and David, and Ray, Hugh, Ivor, Tony, Marilyn, Catherine and Anne for leading our services and sharing in ministry.

Although this report is for 2017 I would like to particularly thank Emma, who has just stepped down as our Administrator after nearly 10 years dedicated service.

Finally I would especially like to thank Anne for all she does in sharing ministry with me, emotionally, practically and spiritually.

I very much look forward to sharing with you in discovering how the Lord will continue to bless us and others through us in the coming year.

Fabric, Furnishings and Churchyard Report

The Quinquennial inspection was carried out on 25th May 2016 and identified no major issues, just the usual cyclical maintenance matters which will need to be programmed and undertaken. In this regard Brian Smyth continued the repainting of the guttering and downpipes. In addition, work to repair some of the stonework around the windows was put in hand, with the intention being that the repair work itself will be undertaken in 2108.

In March the large tree in the churchyard, close to 22 Church Street, was lopped and trimmed by Tom Ashpole (Tree Care) of Worton. This was partly in response to concerns of overshadowing raised by the Humphries family, who live at this property.

Although organ music on CD is used for most services, the church organ was used for a wedding service and for a Fete Songs of Praise Service (organist Jim Banks from Hilperton). It sounded fine and has clearly kept in tune since its servicing in 2016.

The Churchwarden updated some plans for Church improvements which had been drawn up in the 1990s, with a view to setting up a small working party to consider the possibility of providing a small toilet/washroom and separate galley kitchen inside the Church and producing a more user-friendly and versatile building. The intention is to progress this project in 2018.

In June a new clasp was purchased and fitted for the donations box, as the existing clasp had been damaged and broken.

A copy of Microsoft Office was purchased for the Church laptop, for use at Messy Church Services and similar services, such as Christingle and Nativity.

In October the Churchwarden met a representative of AV (Audiovisual Direct) at the Church to explore possible improvements to the PA System. However, the existing system still continues to work well, and the PCC decided to make no changes or upgrades at present.

Following a request from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, the PCC agreed that a small war graves sign could be fitted to the church railings, alerting visitors to the presence of war graves in the Churchyard. This will hopefully be progressed in 2018.

The Grass cutting Rota continued to be fully subscribed, with no need for any double-shifts this year. Mac Bennett's family has donated Mac's garden strimmer to the Church.

Deanery Synod Report

Synod met three times in 2017

14 February @ St. James', Trowbridge

21 June @ Atworth Church Hall

19 October @ St. Katharine's, Holt

Speakers throughout 2017

At the February meeting Chris Andrews who is a licensed Reader in the Diocese of Gloucester spoke about Roaring Rugby (RR), which he founded in 2011. RR has developed a programme for schools and churches to come together through Sports Ministry. The benefits to schools are enhanced Christian Distinctiveness through a mix of professional coaching of all sports (not just rugby), school values and prayer/scripture. The benefits to church are to rediscover the medium of sports to engage with children and parents in their parishes. There are many ways to use this mission through school, church halls and community settings.

At the June meeting there was a presentation by David Morgan who is the Chairman of the Diocesan Environment Group. Since then several churches in the Deanery have put themselves forward for different levels to achieve Bronze and Silver during the year. The following website www.ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk has a wealth of information including an Eco Survey.

At the October meeting Debbie Orriss who is a Church Army Evangelist working for Salisbury Diocese as Discipleship Coordinator spoke. Debbie serves the Deanery and is a resource to help and assist Parishes. Questions asked by Debbie to those present were as follows:

"How do you feel about the word discipleship"?

"What do you think it means"?

"What has helped you learn and grow in your faith as a disciple, in the absence of Jesus' physical presence"?

Clergy comings and goings

Rev. Julian Parker	Retired
Rev. Selina Deacon	Retired
Rev. Annie Wintour	Retired
Melanie Otto	Transferred to a different Deanery

Deanery Share

David Robinson the Deanery Treasurer was pleased to report that the 2017 share had been paid in full and on time.

Deanery Plan

This was reviewed and updated during the early part of the year with copies going to each Deanery Representative and the Diocese.

Sudan

In August 2017 Rev Andrew Evans (Rural Dean) and Christopher and Ann Fielden were part of a delegation led by the Archbishop of Canterbury to the Sudan.

Dave Lewis provided regular updates either in person at Synod meetings or via reports sent on email to representatives. These were very informative and up to date on matters of concern, funding, health care and education provision.

Synod Secretary

Anne Willis stood down as Secretary at the February 2017 meeting. The Rural Dean presented her with a bouquet of flowers, a bottle of wine and card in recognition of her term of service. Dawn Farmer took on the role in April 2017.

Assistant Rural Dean

Rev. Allan Coutts was licensed by Archdeacon Sue Groom at the October Synod meeting.

Synod meetings

Synod is open to all those who wish to attend. Meeting dates and locations are arranged well in advance and every effort is made to meet on different days of the week. The intention is to share good practice around the Deanery, and for it to be a place where ideas can be shared.

Meetings 2018

- 21 February @ St. James', Trowbridge
- 14 June @ St. Michael & All Angels, Melksham
- 17 October @ Holy Trinity Church, Bradford on Avon

Village Magazine

Leon Karas continued as editor and handed over to Gillian Airey towards the end of the year. We are grateful for his hard work.

The cost is met by parishioners' donations, the Parish Council and from adverts placed in the Magazine. Many thanks to all those people who have contributed, and to the faithful band of volunteers, who have delivered the Magazine to every house in this village.

Housegroup

This normally meets twice monthly in different homes. We spend time getting to know one another, encouraging each other in our faith and praying.. This included Bible studies using "Pilgrim Course" on the baptism promises.

Financial Review 2017

Regular worshippers and others have again given generously this year. Total receipts for 2017 were £22,434 and total payments were £21,622 as detailed in the Financial Statement.

Costs relating to running of the church were £16,262. We had no major expenditure on the building this year, routine maintenance cost £112. Gifts and mission support amounted to £1,864.

30% of the fete profits were allocated to general church maintenance, 30% to the school, 30% to the Village Hall Management Council, and 10% to Julian House.

Again we are very grateful to God for all he gives us and we pray that we will use it according to his great commission.

St George's Church Semington

Financial Statement for the Year Ending 31 December 2017

General Fund – Receipts & Payments Account

		2017	2016
<u>Receipts</u>		£	£
Voluntary Income	Collections & Gifts	9687	8459
	Tax recovered	1648	1785
Fees & Rents	Fees	3536	4742
	Land rents	1870	1870
Designated [D] & Restricted [R] gifts	Churchyard	210	210
	Magazine	1643	1188
Events & Activities	Fête	3804	3522
	Messy Church	21	121
	CD & Book Sales	15	27
Total Receipts during the year		22434	21924
Less Total Payments (<i>from page 3</i>)		<u>21622</u>	<u>20904</u>
		812	1020
Cash book balance (<i>b/f at start of year</i>)		<u>8671</u>	<u>7652</u>
Cash Book balance (<i>c/f to next year</i>)		<u>9483</u>	<u>8672</u>
Balance c/f at 31st December		9483	8672
Plus uncleared cheque 356		100	0
Bank balance c/f to next year		<u>9583</u>	<u>8672</u>

		2017	2016
<u>Payments</u>			
	Overseas missions	1386	946
	Home missions	478	466
Gifts	Village Hall re Fête	1049	1035
	Julian House re Fête	349	0
	Carer Support Wilts re Fête	0	346
	School re Fête	1049	1035
Church	School Leavers' Bibles	127	242
Activities	Messy Church	200	632
	Bradford Deanery	10	10
	Deanery Share	6871	6069
Church	Heating & Lighting	182	259
Running	Insurance	1552	1576
Expenses	Organ & Organist	10	362
	Churchyard	574	289
	Maintenance	112	157
	Flowers	0	69
	Fees	2179	2861
	Magazine	1728	1690
	Admin	87	91
	Miscellaneous	97	104
	Fete	308	71
	Benefice Expenses	941	1069
	Rev Rees Expenses	694	202
	Fire & Lightning safety	277	221
	Website	270	0
	Study Books	<u>43</u>	<u>67</u>
Sub total		20573	19869
	Transfer to COIF Accounts	1049	1035
Total Payments		<u>21622</u>	<u>20904</u>

Statement of Restricted Funds as at 31 December 2017

	2017	2016
	£	£
Poor Fund (included in General Fund)	219	219
Church Maintenance (Included in Roof Fund)	11262	10213
Website (note C) (included in General Fund)	<u>0</u>	<u>144</u>
	11481	10576

COIF funds

COIF Roof fund (note A)

Shares value at start	35746	30305
Gain/loss during year	4480	4405
Transfers from General fund	<u>1049</u>	<u>1036</u>
	41275	35746

COIF Reserve/Restricted fund

At start	16860	16789
Interest	40	71
	16900	16860

Statement of Assets & Liabilities as at 31 December 2017

Lloyds bank (General Fund)	9483	8671
COIF Reserve fund	16900	16860
COIF Shares (Roof fund)	<u>41275</u>	<u>35746</u>
	67658	61287

Church Lands estimated current

Open market value (note B)	80000	80000
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Other disposable assets (estimated value)

SABA mower	20	20
Honda mower	66	88
Stihl strimmer FS40C	103	137
Stihl strimmer FS40	40	
Homelite strimmer	60	

NOTES

- A. 18.9 units x £153.7771, value £2906 (31/12/17) identified as Designated funds
- B. Subject to existing tenancies but not professionally assessed
- C. Benefice website fund

Declaration.

Based upon the information and records provided I confirm the "Annual Report and Financial Statement 2017" prepared by the Parochial Church Council is a fair representation of the financial affairs of St George's Church Semington.

Signed

Date

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D Weston', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

14th February 2018

David Weston
Auditor